



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SENATOR BURTON AND GO SERV AMERICORPS MEMBERS WILL HOST CAL GRANT WORKSHOP**

**SAN FRANCISCO** □ More than 100 high school students will benefit today from a Cal Grant workshop hosted in partnership by Senate President Pro Tempore John Burton (D-San Francisco), the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) and the Office of the Secretary for Education.

"Cal Grant scholarships can mean the difference between someone attending college or not," Senator Burton said. "Guaranteeing Cal Grants for everyone who qualifies is one of the most important things the Legislature and the Governor have ever done. I'm pleased that partnership effort is continuing as we help students take advantage of this program."

AmeriCorps members will act as facilitators, assisting college bound high school students apply for a Cal Grant. The AmeriCorps members have undergone in-depth training specifically for these workshops, which will help both the prospective students, as well as AmeriCorps members, who make a commitment to a term of community service. English and Spanish speaking AmeriCorps members will be at the workshop.

"AmeriCorps members have proven they can get important things done in their community," Executive Director of GO SERV, Chuck Supple said. "While fulfilling their commitment, they are also helping some high school students get the assistance they need to attend college."

The partnership between GO SERV and the Legislature in cooperation with the Office of the Secretary for Education, the California Student Aid Commission and a number of other state agencies was designed to provide assistance in applying for available student aid.

Governor Davis' Secretary for Education, Kerry Mazzoni and Senator Jackie Speier (D-Hillsborough) will attend Senator Burton's workshop, which will take place from 1:00 p.m.

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## **SENATOR BURTON AND GO SERV HOST CAL GRANT WORKSHOP 2-2-2-2**

until 4:00 p.m. today, February 24, 2002, at San Francisco State University in the Humanities and Social Sciences Building, Room 130. The address is 1600 Holloway Avenue, San Francisco, California 94132.

Under the historic Cal Grant expansion program signed by Governor Gray Davis in 2000, every college-bound student who qualifies and meets the March 2 application deadline will get a Cal Grant of up to \$9,700 each year for tuition, books, and living expenses at qualifying California colleges or universities. Graduates from last year and high school students graduating in 2002 with a B (3.0) grade average or higher can qualify for a Cal Grant A to be used at a public or private four-year institution. Students with a C (2.0) grade average can qualify for a Cal Grant B to be used at a community college. Prior to implementation of the new Cal Grant guarantee, Cal Grants were awarded on a first-come-first-served basis with a limited number of awards available.

Applicants have until March 2 to complete the two-step application process. Students must file a school-certified copy of their GPA along with a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To encourage students to meet the deadline, English and Spanish outreach messages are airing on radio stations, and in particular through the Internet, where teens get most of their news.

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